

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, March 22, 1924

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

BUILD FRANKLIN ROAD

Child Broke Arm—Marvin Hollow Farm Sold—Mr. Darling's Inventions.

Harold Miller has resigned as leader of the Walton band. With the voting of an appropriation to the band the village will enjoy band concerts this summer.

The store at Pinesville, conducted by Maurice Travis, was broken into Friday night and goods valued at about \$100 taken. State troopers were called to investigate the case.

Fred Benedict has sold his farm up Marvin hollow to Walter Gordon of Hancock. The sale includes the personal property and possession will be given April 1. The sale was made by H. M. Robinson.

In the list of prize winners in the Royal cake contest, conducted by the Royal Baking Powder company, appears the name of Miss M. Janie Launt of Walton, who was awarded one of the hundred \$5 prizes offered.

On Thursday evening, Mar. 20, the telephone operators of the Walton People's Telephone company, together with the other employees, each with one invited guest, enjoyed a banquet in the sunlight dining parlor of the Royal.

The sun crossed the line at 4:20 Thursday and spring is now officially here. Major J. I. Webb, Walton's weather prophet, basing his prediction on the cold north winds of the past ten days, looks for a cold and backward spring the next two months, with but little rainfall.

Earl Love of Granton had his right leg broken Wednesday. A drag of Logs had been brought in and as Mr. Love was lifting a log with a crowbar the bar slipped and the log struck his leg. Both bones were broken. Dr. Gould reduced the fracture.

Rev. Harley S. Fletcher of Smithville Flats, N. Y., has accepted the pastorate of the Presbyterian churches at Beerston and Rock Rift and will take up the work about Apr. 1. Sufficient money has been subscribed to assure the building of a manse for the new pastor.

The fine, new residence of Dr. E. Ray Gladstone at 24 Townsend street is nearing completion and the family expect to move on April first. R. C. Alsworth, owner of the 5 and 10 cent store, will occupy the rooms in the Elliott house, lower Townsend street, vacated by the Gladstone family.

Alice Myrtle, the two year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McLaughlin, who live on the Tacy farm, river road, fell Tuesday while at play in the kitchen which had just been mopped. The child sustained a greenstick fracture of her right arm. Dr. W. R. Gladstone is the attending physician.

Eugene Griswold, employed in the Beerston acetate factory, came near being fatally poisoned by wood alcohol Saturday night. He was working on the night shift and went for a drink of water. In his haste he grabbed up and drank from a glass that had been used for testing wood alcohol and in which some of the alcohol still remained. The man was partially paralyzed by the poison but is now recovering. Dr. Smith attended him.

The town tax must be paid before April 1. Some taxpayers have the idea that the error in the tax

levy has caused an extension of the time for the return of the rolls to the county Treasurer, but this is not the case. The corrected rolls were returned to the collectors of each town Tuesday. The taxes now being paid are at the corrected rate but the law provides that the collectors must return the rolls to the county treasurer not later than April first. Levies will be made before April first where taxes are not paid.

The town board of Franklin has authorized the superintendent of highways to begin the construction of a macadam road this year to connect with the Walton road at Plymouth church. Work is to begin at the Walton town line and the road completed to the top of the hill this side of Adelbert Groat's. After this piece is completed, the machinery will be moved to the Franklin village end of the road. These instructions are conditioned on the willingness of the adjoining property owners to donate stone for the road and give the right of way for hauling.—Franklin Dairyman.

A few months ago F. C. Darling of Walton obtained a patent on a bath and basin stopper lift and last, month the manufacture of this article was begun at a factory in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mr. Darling is acting as selling agent and has already received orders from some of the largest jobbers in plumbers' supplies in the country. The principle of Mr. Darling's patent is simple. The stopper for the basin or bath tub is attached by a chain to a weight in the overflow pipe. When the stopper is pulled loose the weight carries it up and holds it in a convenient position for use the next time. Darling's towel hanger, another invention of the Walton man, has found a large sale and the Darling stopper lift promises to prove even more popular.

MAYOR AND EDITOR ARRESTED FOR LIBEL

Broadfoot Claims Reputation Damaged by Pudney's Advertisement

Mayor B. E. Pudney did not spend Wednesday night in the Delhi jail. Following the arrest that afternoon of Mayor Pudney and Editor Arthur Bird of the Sidney Record on charges of libel brought by B. Cook Broadfoot, cashier of the People's National bank of Sidney, Mr. Pudney declared that he would languish in jail rather than furnish the bail asked, but before the arrival of the Utica Flyer, which was to take him to Sheriff Arbuckles boarding house in Delhi, the mayor changed his mind and gave the bond required.

The action is an unusual one and grows out of the campaign preceding the village election in Sidney Tuesday in which Mr. Pudney was reelected president by a plurality of 96 over Attorney Ralph W. France. During the course of this campaign Mr. Pudney issued a number of circulars and also inserted an advertisement in the March 8 number of the Sidney Record. This advertisement was headed, "Something Hidden. Go and Find it." In this advertisement Mr. Pudney charged illegal and unlawful use of village money. One of the statements complained of as libelous is the following: "The leader in all this, B. C. Broadfoot, took from Sidney village treasury \$6,327 illegally, unlawfully, on February 7th."

Mr. Broadfoot in his complaints in the actions against Mr. Pudney and Editor Bird asks \$10,000 damages from each for alleged false and malicious publications relative to the conduct of Mr. Broadfoot.

The warrants were issued under section 82 6 of the Civil Practic Act, which provides that a defendant may be arrested in an action brought to recover damages for

MONEY FOR LIBRARY AND BAND VOTED BY WALTON TAXPAYERS

At the village election in Walton Tuesday afternoon all of the eight propositions submitted to the taxpayers were approved by substantial majorities. The smallest was 51 on propositions to raise \$5,000 for general purposes and \$300 for the Walton band. The proposition providing \$500 annually for the Ogden library was carried by 87, the affirmative vote being nearly 3 to 1.

One hundred ninety-eight persons voted. All but eleven of these were taxpayers and entitled to vote on the propositions as well as for village officers. Nearly as many women as men voted.

There was no opposition to the ticket nominated at the union caucus. Arthur J. Courtney's vote for president would have been unanimous had not someone in the "dogtown" section decided that Andrew Munn was the ideal candidate and cast his vote accordingly. Mr. Courtney received 164 votes. O. J. Hoos received 167 votes for trustee and J. J. Farrell 161 for that office. For treasurer J. C. McClelland received 178 votes and there were 177 cast for Mrs. Letha Palmatier for collector. The vote on the eight propositions was as follows:

Proposition No. 1. Shall the sum of \$8,000 be raised by taxation for highway purposes Yes, 145; no,

30. Carried by 115.

Proposition No. 2. Shall the sum of 35,000 be raised by taxation for general purposes? Yes, 109; no, 58. Carried by 51.

Proposition No. 3. Shall the sum of \$2,000 be raised by taxation for the purpose of oiling the dirt and cinder streets? Yes, 135; no, 40. Carried by 95.

Proposition No. 4. Shall the sum of \$3,800 be raised by taxation for the purpose of street lighting? Yes, 142; no, 29. Carried by 113.

Proposition No. 5. Shall the sum of \$1,500 be raised by taxation for the purpose of defraying the expense of the fire department? Yes, 149; no, 28. Carried by 121.

Proposition No. 6. Shall the sum of \$900 be raised by taxation for the purpose of defraying the expense of the board of health? Yes, 13 6; no, 3 8. Carried by 98.

Proposition No. 7. Shall the sum of \$300 be raised by taxation for the benefit, support and maintenance of the Walton band? Yes, 115; no, 64. Carried by 51.

Proposition No. 8. Shall the sum of \$500 be raised annually by a tax levied against all the taxable property of the village of Walton, N. Y., for the support and maintenance of the William B. Ogden Free Library of Walton? Yes, 132; no, 45. Carried by 87.

a personal injury. This section is seldom used and the arrest of the defendants in a civil action for libel will unquestionably serve to create sympathy for them.

The warrants were issued by Justice A. L. Kellogg in Oneonta Monday morning and were sent to the sheriff's office in Delhi on Tuesday. Deputy Sheriff Lynn Stewart went to Sidney Wednesday and served the warrants. Bail in the sum of \$5,000 was set by Justice Kellogg in the case of Mr. Pudney and at \$3,000 in the case of Editor Bird. The newspaper man's bond was promptly signed by W. E. Barker and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bird. President Pudney at first declared that he would go to jail rather than furnish bail but before train time arrived changed his mind and put up the required bond.

Seybolt & Seybolt of Oneonta are attorneys for Mr. Broadfoot. Alva Seybolt is the father of Mrs. Broadfoot.

The village law is strict in the matter of payments of village moneys and it is undoubtedly true that in many villages the law is unwittingly broken by the payments of bills in excess of the appropriations approved by the taxpayers or the sums voted by tax. Such a deficit, it is understood, has been carried over in Sidney from year to year.

According to information given the Reporter the sum involved in the change was for money loaned the village of Sidney on a note issued by a former board of trustees and renewed. There is no question but that the money went into the village treasury and was expended by village officials. Some time later, in July, 1923. when the time for payment became due. Pudney refused to pay interest on the note and while affixing his name to a new note raised some questions. Cashier Broadfoot directed that the note be charged to the account of the village treasurer when due, the village then having sufficient funds on deposit to meet it. This was done and as a result the village was left without funds to meet numerous bills which were due.

The advertisement in the Sidney Record was inserted as political advertising over the signature of Mr. Pudney. The columns of the Record were opened to a reply to this article and liberal space given to such a reply, which was quite as severe on Mr. Pudney as Pudney's article had been on his opponents. The feeling of many is that Mr.

Broadfoot, if he feels himself injured, has taken the wrong course in bringing Mr. Bird into the matter and that the arrests, while within the letter of the law, are calculated to array majority sentiment on the side of the mayor and editor.

FOURTEEN DEAD HENS FOUND IN ROOM WITH RECLUSE'S BODY.

Oscar DeSilva, Gilboa, hermit, was found dead in his shack by Elmer Lewis, a neighbor, one day recently.

DeSilva lived alone in an old shack located about three miles from Gilboa. He never shaved or had a haircut and in appearance resembled the pictures of the Jewish patriarchs with their flowing beards. He was about 75 years of age.

The man had been dead some time. His chickens lived in the house with him and when the body was found there were fourteen dead hens in the same room.

BEARDSLEY GETS 30 DAYS

Walton Man Indicted for Driving a Car While Intoxicated.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

On Monday the following indicted persons were arraigned before Justice Kellogg and their cases disposed of as follows:

Elmer Beardsley of Walton, driving a car while intoxicated. pleaded guilty, and was given jail sentence of thirty days.

George Bennett of East Branch, burglary third degree, sentence suspended. Must report to court one year from March.

Irving McWhirter of Franklin, rape, pleaded not guilty, gave bond.

Isaac Rifenberg of Harpersfield, rape, pleaded not guilty, and will give bond.

Corlis Van Deusen of East Branch, rape, pleaded not guilty, gave bond.

IN JAIL FOR CONTEMPT

Bloomville Man Refused to Tell About Board Bill.

Ralph Peterson was brought before Justice of the Peace Henderson a few days ago to answer for an unpaid board bill contracted with Mrs. Margaret Every. The judge

sentenced him to 25 days in jail for contempt of court as he refused to answer questions. This is the second time in less than a year he has appeared on a similar charge and it is understood that there are more who are waiting for him to pay board bills that have been standing for considerable time.

SHAVINGS CAUSE FIRE

Boy's Presence of Mind Saves Travis House Near Roxbury.

(From Roxbury correspondent.)

Early Saturday morning the home of Elmer Travis in Meeker hollow, near Roxbury, was discovered to be on fire. Lynn Bookhout, grandson of Mr. Travis, who is a Boy Scout, heard a roaring between the partitions in his bedroom and with great presence of mind ran for an axe and chopped through the wall and the family began pouring water through the hole; neighbors arrived quickly and the blaze was controlled. Upon investigation it was found that when carpenters completed the house, which is comparatively new, some shavings had been left between the partitions near a chimney.

This is the third time the Travis family have been visited by fire, the first one consuming their house, the second one, last year, taking the barn and silo.

VETERAN HAS FOOT AMPUTATED.

Surgeons amputated the left foot of Wilbur J. Parsons of Deposit at the Moore-Overton hospital, Binghamton, Tuesday morning. Mr. Parsons suffered a gunshot wound of the foot during overseas service in the World war, which has troubled him ever since.

TROOPERS' BARRACKS BURNED.

A number of the horses from the White Plains barracks of the state police were transferred to the Sidney barracks this week. The White Plains barracks were destroyed by fire one night recently, only the records and horses being saved from the buildings.

HOUSE AT UNADILLA DESTROYED BY FIRE

Woman Crippled by Rheumatism Carried From House by Neighbor

(From Unadilla correspondent.)

The dwelling house of Mrs. Alice Casey, on Bridge street, occupied by herself and Mr. and Mrs. Burns Cole was almost destroyed by fire Saturday evening at about 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Casey barely escaped, being crippled with rheumatism. She had retired at 10:30 and was awakened by a crackling sound which she thought was the work of mice. She began to smell smoke and upon investigation found the wall near the stove in the living room ablaze.

She tried to extinguish the flames with water but they had gained too much headway. Mrs. Casey then went downstairs in her night clothes and in her bare feet called for help. A neighbor heard her calls and carried her across the street to the Manwaring home. The fire company was summoned and the blaze was soon controlled but not until the house was practically destroyed. Neighbors removed a few of Mr. Cole's furniture and some of Mrs. Casey's personal effects from the house.

Mrs. Casey carried an insurance on the house which will far from cover her loss. Mr. Cole's insurance will cover his loss.

Mrs. Casey was taken to the home of her son, Herbert Merriam, at Wells Bridge.